

Lesson 15. Apartment Home Security

Lesson Purpose

To provide a general overview of security considerations for apartment dwellers.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Identify building features that improve security.
- Identify strategies to reduce the likelihood of crime.
- Complete a Safety Checklist for Apartments.

Materials

Presentation: Apartment Home Security

Handout(s): *"A Safety Checklist for Apartments"*

Supplement: *"How Can I Make My Home Safer?"* and *"Lock Crime Out of Your Home,"* from the National Crime Prevention Council. Download at www.ncpc.org/

Display newspaper and magazine articles about crimes involving apartment home burglaries, or tips for prevention.

Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

Lesson Plan

Time	Main Points	Slide
Introduction		
5 min.	Making your apartment safer from crime doesn't always mean having to hire security personnel or install expensive alarm systems. There are some handy measures that can lessen the likelihood of crime.	1 – 2
	Briefly describe a local example of crime involving poor apartment security.	
	Today, we'll talk about apartment building features that improve security and about strategies to reduce the likelihood of crime. We'll also complete a safety checklist for apartments that will help to identify areas that need improvement.	2
	Distribute handout: <i>"A Safety Checklist for Apartments"</i>	

Time	Main Points	Slide
Presentation		
4 min.	Check your apartment Does your – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entry door have a deadbolt lock and peephole? ▪ Sliding glass doors have a rod in the track, so it can't be opened, and pins in the overhead frame so it can't be lifted out? ▪ Landlord or building manager tightly control all keys? Do you -- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leave a radio playing or a light on while you are gone? ▪ Always tell neighbors and the building manager when you leave for a business trip or vacation? 	3
5 min.	Check out your building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there some kind of control over who enters and leaves the building? ▪ Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms and storage areas well-lighted, 24 hours a day? 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor, so you can exit, but no one else can enter? ▪ Are mailboxes located in well-traveled, well-lighted areas? Do they have good locks? ▪ Are things well-maintained – burnt-out lights fixed properly, shrubs trimmed, trash and snow removed? 	5
5 min.	Check out the neighbors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get to know your neighbors. Join or organize an Apartment Watch group so neighbors can look out for and help each other. ▪ If you live in a large building or complex, think about a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provides escort services for the frail and handicapped, and monitors comings and goings in the lobby. 	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with landlords to sponsor social events for tenants – a Sunday breakfast, a picnic, a Halloween party. ▪ Look beyond problems to root causes – does your building need better equipment, a social evening for residents, a tenant association or new landscaping? Work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where they live. 	7

Time	Main Points	Slide
2 min.	Summarizing (<i>briefly highlight each area</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your apartment features. ▪ Your building features. ▪ Neighbors. 	8
Practice/feedback		
12 min.	Ask participants to complete the Safety Checklist for Apartments. Allow participants 6 to 8 minutes to complete. The instructor should circulate among participants during this time. Conclude the activity by asking 3 or 4 volunteer participants to discuss “next steps” to improve security, based on the checklist. The instructor should reinforce key learning points.	9
Evaluation		
10 min.	<p>Set-up</p> <p>We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we’re doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we’d like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation. ▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak. ▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms. 	10

A SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR APARTMENTS

Check your apartment

Does your –

- _____ Entry door have a deadbolt lock and peephole?
- _____ Sliding glass door have a rod in the track so it can't be opened and pins in the overhead frame so it can't be lifted out?
- _____ Landlord or building manager tightly control all keys?

Do you –

- _____ Leave a radio playing or a light on while out?
- _____ Always tell neighbors and the building manager when leaving for a business trip or vacation?

Check out your building

- _____ Is there some kind of control over who enters and leaves the building?
- _____ Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms and storage areas well-lighted, 24 hours a day.
- _____ Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor, so you can exit but no one can enter?
- _____ Are mailboxes located in well-traveled, well-lighted areas? Do they have good locks?
- _____ Are things well-maintained – burnt-out lights fixed properly, shrubs trimmed, trash and snow removed?

Check out the neighbors

_____ I know my neighbors.

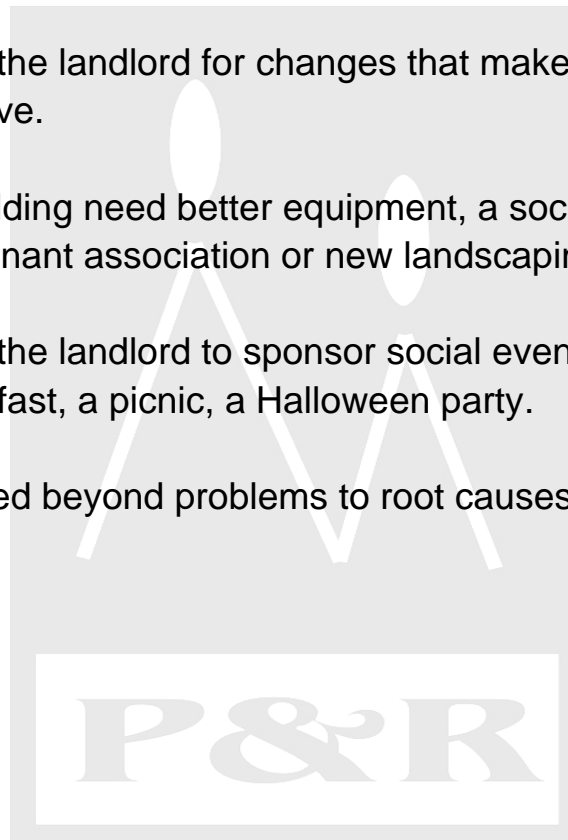
_____ Join or organize an Apartment Watch group so neighbors can look out for and help each other. If you live in a large building or complex, think about a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provides escort services for the frail and handicapped, and monitors comings and goings in the lobby.

_____ We work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where we live.

_____ Does your building need better equipment, a social evening for residents, a tenant association or new landscaping?

_____ We work with the landlord to sponsor social events for tenants – a Sunday breakfast, a picnic, a Halloween party.

_____ We have looked beyond problems to root causes.



15. Apartment Home Security

Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I now can identify apartment building features that improve security.	1	2	3	4
b) I now can identify strategies for making an apartment more secure.	1	2	3	4
c) I know more strategies to reduce the likelihood of crime in an apartment building or complex.	1	2	3	4
d) I know more strategies for working with neighbors to improve security and reduce the likelihood of crime.	1	2	3	4
About this lesson . . .				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.

How could this lesson be improved?

